

Washington, DC – Today, Rep. Michael Honda (CA-15), chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), issued the following statement on the passing of Ronald Takaki, Professor of Asian American Studies at the University of California at Berkeley:

"On behalf of CAPAC, I extend my deepest condolences to the family and friends of Dr. Ronald Takaki. Dr. Takaki was a committed leader in the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. We will miss him dearly.

"Dr. Takaki had a long, distinguished career in academia, where he was a pioneer in the field of ethnic studies, and helped establish a major in ethnic studies at UC Berkeley, and eventually a Ph.D. program – the first of its kind in the nation.

"He used these years of experience as an educator to dispel stereotypes and work for equality for Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and other minority communities by teaching classes and publishing works that documented the history and struggles of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in a multicultural America.

"We are indebted to his contributions and will continue his work of promoting equality and educating those in our great nation and beyond about America's proud diversity. My prayers go out to his family and friends during this difficult time. He will be sorely missed by all."